

# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Overview

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State Highway Administration

Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering

Regional and Intermodal Planning Division

March 2017

# Federal Funding Legislation

- FAST Act- Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
  - Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) = Surface Transportation Block Grants (STBG)
  - Same Eligible Project Categories



# Program Funding Structure

## SAFETEA-LU

Transportation  
Enhancements

Safe Routes to  
School

Recreational  
Trails

## MAP-21 / FAST- Act

Transportation  
Alternatives

Transportation  
Alternatives

Safe Routes to  
School

Recreational  
Trails

# Funding Allocation

- Each state receives a portion of federal TA Program funds designated for the Fiscal Year
  - A portion of each State's funding is allocated for the Recreational Trails Program
  - Remaining balance is allocated for TA projects:
    - A portion is allocated to the major Metropolitan Planning Organizations (BMC, MWCOG, WILMAPCO) based on population their relative share of the total State population
    - The remaining may be obligated to any area of the State

# Purpose of the Transportation Alternatives Program

- TA projects are federally-funded community-based projects that:
  - Expand travel options
  - Improve the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure
  - Improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists
  - Reduce traffic congestion
  - Reduce emissions
  - Improve children's health



# Program Eligibility

- Be sponsored or co-sponsored by an eligible agency or authority
- Be related to the surface transportation system
- Meet one or more of nine eligible categories listed in the federal legislation
- Provide 20% cash match
  - Applications will be considered more qualified with a higher percentage of matching funds during selection
- Planning, Design, and Construction funding is eligible
  - Federal procurement requirements apply



# Eligible Project Sponsors

- Local governments
- Regional transportation authorities
- Transit agencies
- Natural resource or public land agencies
- School district, local education agencies, or schools
- Tribal governments
- Any other state, local, or regional governmental entity with responsibility for or oversight of transportation or recreational trails

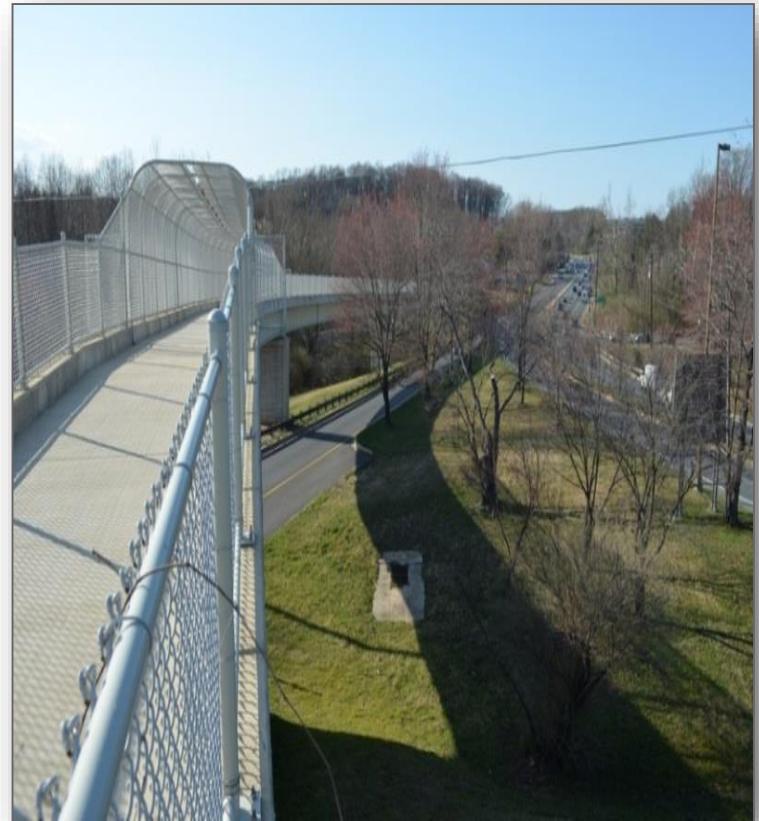


Photo Credit: NTEC

# Project Responsibilities



- Sponsor:
  - Design, project management, and construction
  - Coordinate with key SHA team members to ensure project is meeting all milestone requirements
  - Monthly project reports and invoicing
  - Maintenance activities for the lifespan of the project
  
- SHA:
  - Provides assistance with the TAP process requirements – procurement, environmental permitting, right-of-way, reimbursement, etc.
  - Provides approvals during design, right-of-way, and construction phases



# Eligible Categories

## Provisions of Facilities for Pedestrians and Bicyclist



*Rock Creek Hiker-Biker Trail*

## Infrastructure-Related Projects and Systems that provide Safe Routes



*Sidewalk construction in Dorchester County*

# Eligible Categories

- Conversion of use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists or other non-motorized transportation users



- Environment mitigation activities, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation due to transportation construction



Photo Credit: NTEC

# Eligible Categories

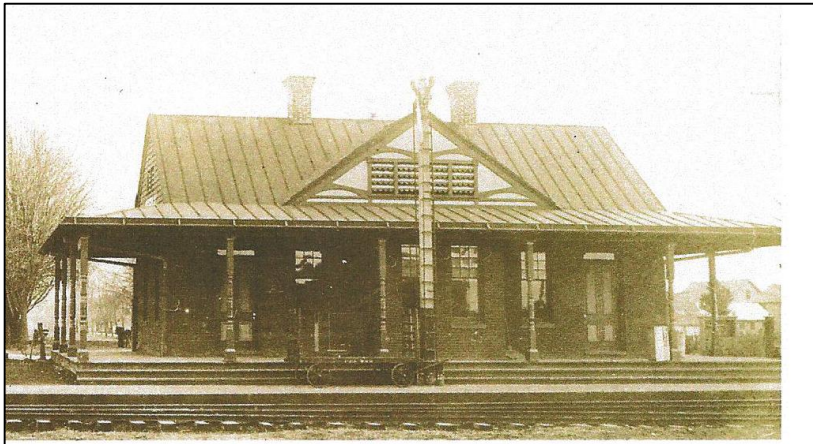
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas
- Inventory, control and removal of outdoor advertising





# Eligible Categories

- Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities
- Archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project eligible under this title



# Eligible Categories

- Vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control



Photo Credit: NTEC



# Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Goals

- Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school.
- Make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age.
- Facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities to improve safety, and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.



# SRTS Eligible Activities

- Engineering
  - Design & Construction
- Education
- Encouragement
- Enforcement
- Evaluation

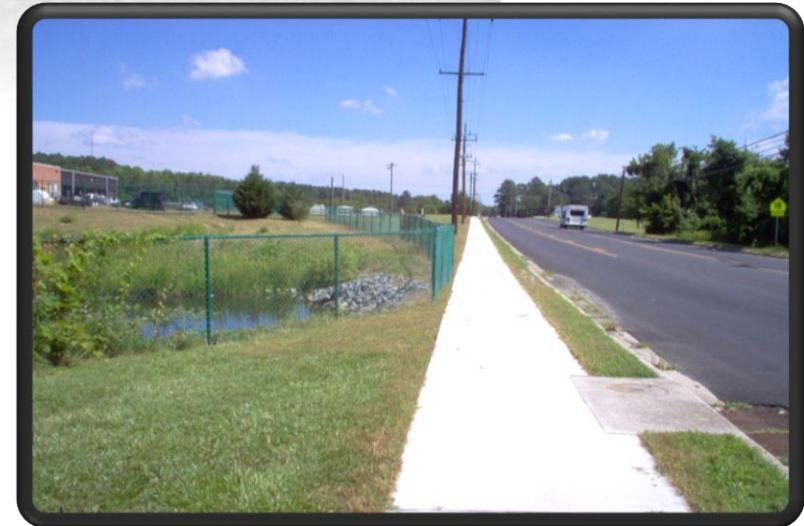
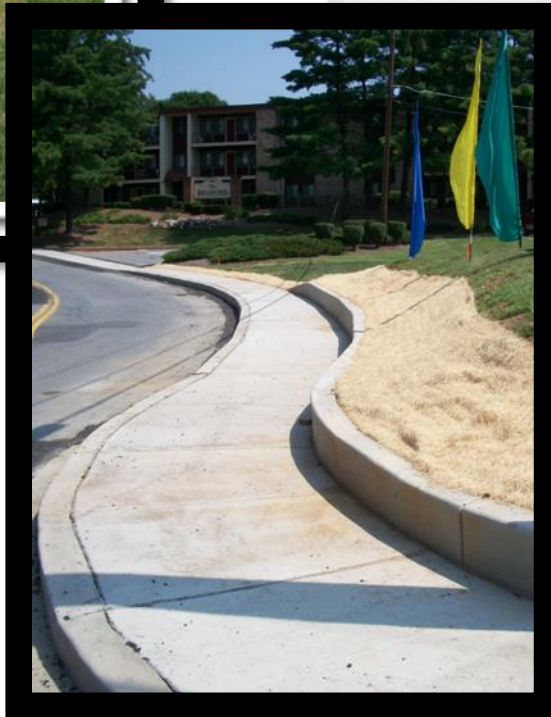
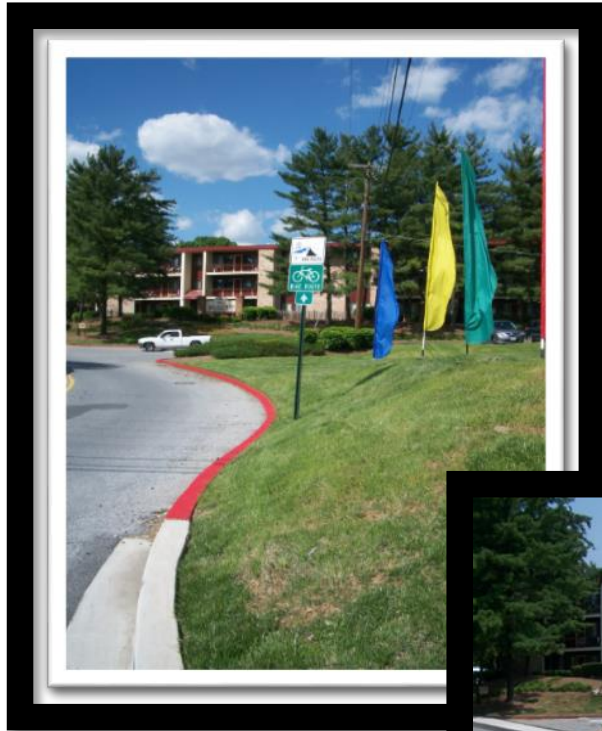


# SRTS Specific Requirements

Projects must:

- Provide 20% cash match
- Benefit elementary or middle school students
- Benefit students who walk or bike to school
- Include school participation
- Be within a two mile radius of the school
- Complete participation surveys and reports

# BEFORE



# AFTER

**MDOT**  
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION

**SHA**  
State Highway  
Administration



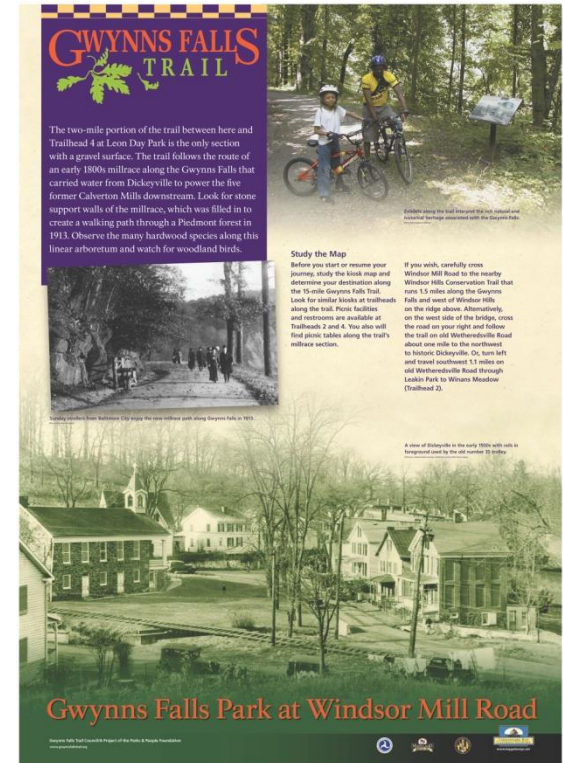
# Recreational Trails Program

- RTP authorized by FAST-Act
- Section of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- Development of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails
- For recreational trail uses, including:
  - Hiking Trails
  - Shared-Use Paths
  - Bicycle Paths
  - Mountain Biking Trails
  - Water Trails
  - Equestrian Trails
  - Cross-Country Ski Trails
  - Snow Machine Trails
  - All-Terrain Vehicle Trails
  - Off-Highway Vehicle Trails



# How Much?

- Projects capped at \$30,000 for non-construction and \$40,000 for construction
- 80% federal funds to be matched 20% in-kind or cash
- Reimbursement based only
- Can be sponsored by a government, or non-profit



# Eligible Trail Project Activities

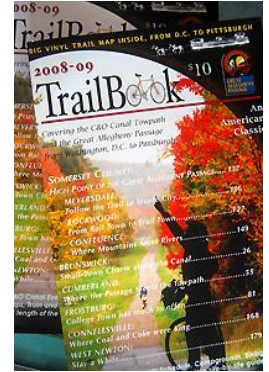
- **Construction, maintenance and restoration** of land or water-based trails and trail-side facilities
- **Purchase** of trail construction or maintenance equipment
- Interpretive/educational programs
- Acquisition of easements for trail development
- *Will not cover planning/design/feasibility studies*





# Preference to Projects That...

- Provide **linkages** or completes existing transportation trails
- Provide **access** between trails and towns
- Provide **access** between communities and recreational or cultural areas
- Enhance **heritage, nature, eco-tourism opportunities**. Is it along a designated byway, water trail, heritage area, Chesapeake Gateway, etc...?



# Project Requirements

- Memorandum of Understandings (MOU)
- Environmental Approvals/Permits
- Right-of-Way Certification
- Federal Procurement Requirements
- Requests for Reimbursement
- Project Completion and Verifications





# Applications



**TA/SRTS: Accepted April 15<sup>th</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup>**

**RTP: Accepted April 15<sup>th</sup> through July 1<sup>st</sup>**

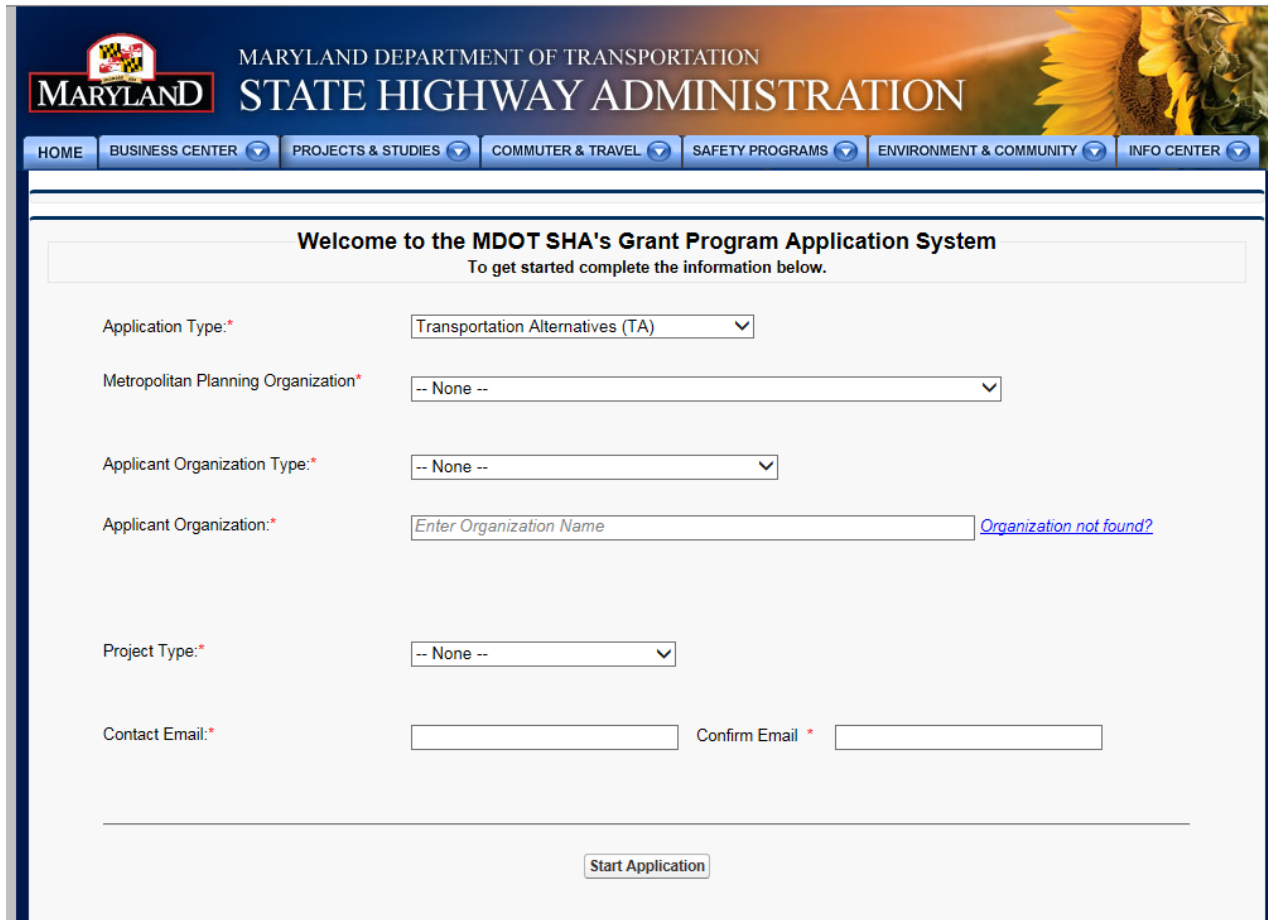
Applications and Application Manual:

<http://www.roads.maryland.gov/Index.aspx?PageId=144>

Additional Safe Routes to School Information:

<http://www.roads.maryland.gov/Index.aspx?PageId=735>

# Application Portal



The screenshot shows the MDOT SHA's Grant Program Application System portal. At the top, there is a header with the Maryland Department of Transportation logo and the text "MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: HOME, BUSINESS CENTER, PROJECTS & STUDIES, COMMUTER & TRAVEL, SAFETY PROGRAMS, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY, and INFO CENTER. The main content area is titled "Welcome to the MDOT SHA's Grant Program Application System" and includes the instruction "To get started complete the information below." The form contains several fields: "Application Type:" with a dropdown menu showing "Transportation Alternatives (TA)"; "Metropolitan Planning Organization:" with a dropdown menu showing "-- None --"; "Applicant Organization Type:" with a dropdown menu showing "-- None --"; "Applicant Organization:" with a text input field containing "Enter Organization Name" and a link "Organization not found?"; "Project Type:" with a dropdown menu showing "-- None --"; and "Contact Email:" with two text input fields for email and "Confirm Email". At the bottom of the form is a "Start Application" button.

**Application Portal**

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**

HOME BUSINESS CENTER PROJECTS & STUDIES COMMUTER & TRAVEL SAFETY PROGRAMS ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY INFO CENTER

**Welcome to the MDOT SHA's Grant Program Application System**  
To get started complete the information below.

Application Type:\* Transportation Alternatives (TA) ▼

Metropolitan Planning Organization\* -- None -- ▼

Applicant Organization Type:\* -- None -- ▼

Applicant Organization:\* Enter Organization Name [Organization not found?](#)

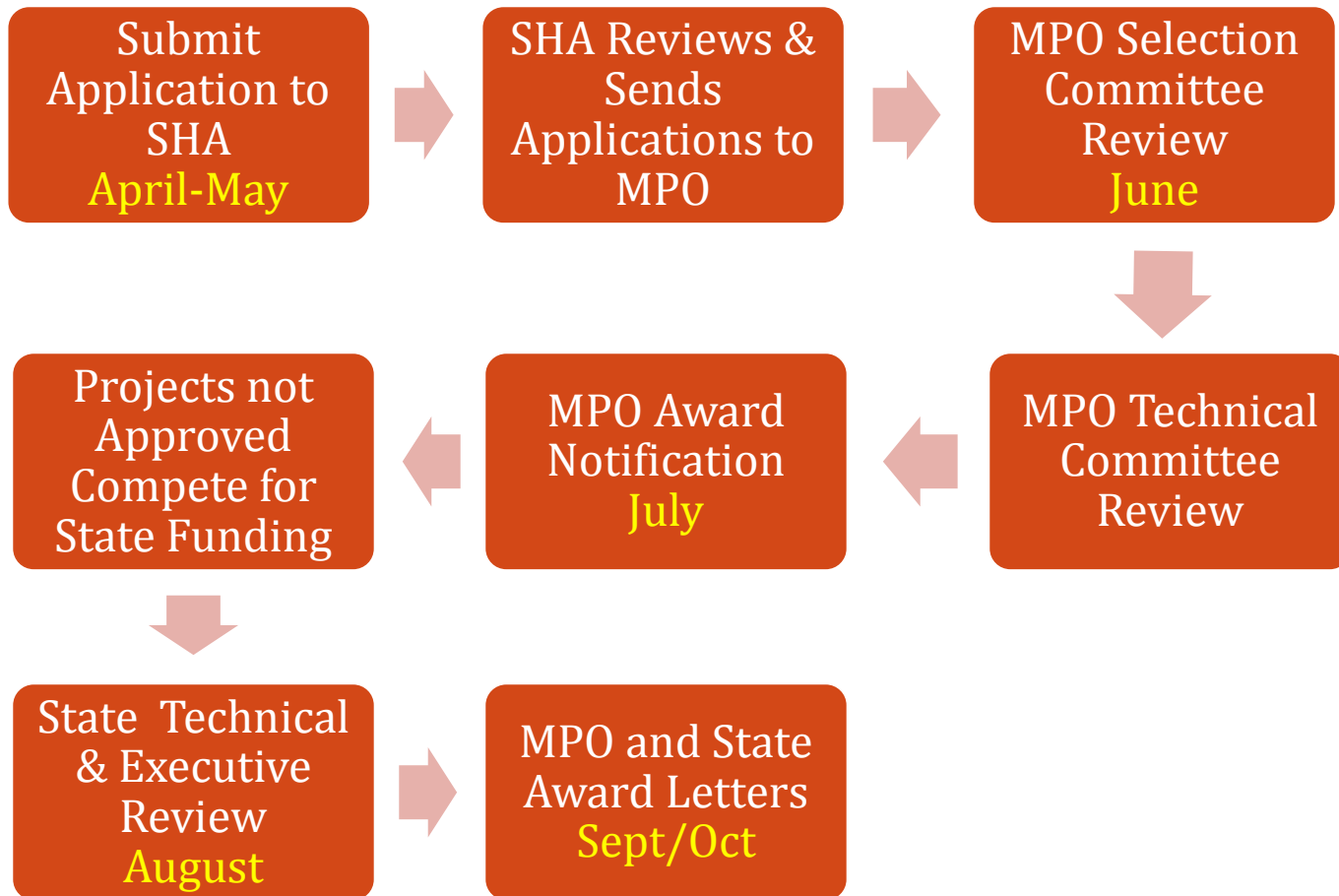
Project Type:\* -- None -- ▼

Contact Email:\*  Confirm Email \*

[Start Application](#)

# TA/SRTS Application Review Process

START :



# RTP Application Review Process

START :





# Tips for Preparing a Good TAP Application

- Answer all of the application questions to the best of your ability; be as concise as possible.
- Be practical with the scope, schedule and budget; include options for phasing the project, if applicable.
- Include photos and maps to help tell the story.
- Be clear about cost of project and where the 20% match is coming from.
- Find out who owns the property; right-of-way (ROW) certifications will need be to obtained for project to move forward.
- Inquire about National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); NEPA approval will be needed for project to move forward.

# Resources

- Transportation Alternatives Program Website  
[www.roads.maryland.gov/Index.aspx?PageID=144](http://www.roads.maryland.gov/Index.aspx?PageID=144)
  - TAP Manual
  - Milestone Policy
  - 30% Design Plan Activities
  - 60% Design Plan Activities
- Safe Routes to School website  
[www.roads.maryland.gov/Index.aspx?PageID=735](http://www.roads.maryland.gov/Index.aspx?PageID=735)
- Guidance for Local Public Agencies and Sub-Recipients of Federal Funds  
[www.roads.maryland.gov/ohd2/Guide LPAs Other Sub-Recipients FedFunds.pdf](http://www.roads.maryland.gov/ohd2/Guide_LPAs_Other_Sub-Recipients_FedFunds.pdf)
- Recreation Trails Program Guidelines (*revisions coming soon*)  
<http://www.sha.state.md.us/Index.aspx?PageId=98>

# Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)

Administered By:  
Federal Highway Administration  
Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division

<http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/md/>

# FLAP Program

- The program was established under MAP-21 and was continued under the FAST-Act to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal lands
- Supplements State and local resources for public roads, transit systems and other transportation facilities that provide access to high-use Federal recreation sites or Federal economic generators within federally-owned lands
- It is designed to provide flexibility for a wide range of transportation projects in the 50 states

# Contact Information

**Please contact us at any time to discuss potential projects, questions regarding eligibility, design guidelines, etc.**

## **For TA/SRTS Questions:**

**Christy Bernal**

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707 N. Calvert Street  
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**410-545-5659**

**cbernal@sha.state.md.us**

## **For RTP Questions:**

**Eric Beckett**

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**<http://www.roads.maryland.gov/Index.aspx?PageId=144>**